World Health Organization (WHO) Growth Standards for monitoring the growth of children have been introduced. There is also a provision for sanction of 'Anganwadi on Demand' in habitations which have 40 children without an Anganwadi Centre. States have been directed to comply with Government of India guidelines dated 24.02.2009 and Supreme Court directions of 22.04.2009. The details of these are available on the Ministry's website.

Vulnerability of children to GM foods

3540. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY:
SHRI RAJNITI PRASAD:

Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether her Ministry has done any assessment on the vulnerability of women and children to GM foods;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, how her Ministry intends to proceed with regard to GM foods and their adverse impacts on women and children?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH): (a) to (c) Indian Council of Agricultural Research is undertaking research to develop genetically modified crops such as rice, rapeseed, mustard, soyabeen, potato, brinjal etc. Appropriate risk analysis of these GM crops is being undertaken for necessary approval of environmental release. Such risk analysis procedure includes aspects of vulnerabilities and hazard measurement of all categories of human beings.

The Ministry of Environment and Forest has set up a mechanism to make bio-safety assessment of GM Crops/Foods by following a policy of case to case event based approval by the Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC), an apex body to accord approval for large scale use and commercial release of genetically modified organisms.

Introduction of any new GM food/food crops is preceded by a careful analysis of risk and evaluation of long term benefits for which extensive rules and guidelines have been framed by the Government of evaluating environmental and health safety impacts of genetically modified organisms.

Rules for Manufacture, Use, Import, Export and Storage of Hazardous Microorganism/genetically engineered organism or cells 1989 under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 have been notified.

The Government of India has put in place a robust and transparent regulatory mechanism to assess the positive and negative impact of GM crops. The GM crops are monitored and reviewed at all stages of development including research and field trials stage. Consultations with all stakeholders at each stage of development are an integral part of the regulatory mechanisms.

As of date, GEAC has approved commercial release of Bt cotton, 20 recombinant Pharmaceuticals and import of GM soybean oil. The GEAC has also approved the confined field trials

of several GM crops for generation of bio-safety data both from the private and public sector institutions of which Bt brinjal is under consideration for commercial release.

In so far as the issue of adverse impact on human health due to consumption of GM Food is concerned, Government of India is following a Policy of case by case assessment of GM crops. Any Company involved in the development of GM crops has to undertake extensive bio-safety assessment which includes environmental safety as well as food and feed safety assessment even if it has been approved for commercial cultivation in other countries.

Destitute and neglected children

†3541. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:
SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the schemes being run by her Ministry for destitute and neglected children; and

(b) the facilities provided to the destitute and neglected children in Chhattisgarh, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Jharkhand from January, 2008 to September, 2009?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Women and Child Development was implementing two schemes namely [I] A Programme for Juvenile Justice and [ii] An Integrated Programme for Street Children, prior to 2009-10. for the welfare & rehabilitation of children in need of care and protection including destitute & neglected children and children in conflict with law. The State-wise details of grants released, homes/projects assisted and beneficiaries covered under the above said schemes during the year 2008-09 are available on the Ministry's website - www.wcd.nic.in.

The Ministry has launched a new centrally sponsored scheme namely Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS) with the objectives to provide safe and secure environment for overall development of the children who are in need of care and protection and children in conflict with law, in the country. The above said schemes have been merged under ICPS and this scheme is implemented through the State Governments/Union territory Administrations, Childline India Foundation (GIF), Mumbai, National Institute of Public Cooperation and Child Development (N1PCCD), end Central Adoption Resource Agency (CARA), from the current financial year 2009-10.

The ICPS provides for establishment and maintenance of open shelters, children homes and shelter homes, etc. for children in need of care and protection including destitute and neglected children. Provisions have been made for children where they can play, use their time productively and engage themselves in creative activities through music, dance, drama, yoga and meditation,

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.